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The **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** in February 2001 invited Ly to address a hearing on Vietnam. Though unable to attend, Ly submitted written testimony stating that the Vietnamese government had "stripped all churches of their independence and freedom" and urging that the U.S. Congress not ratify a long-negotiated U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement.

State-owned media then accused Ly of inviting "foreign hostile forces to intervene in Vietnam's internal affairs" and inciting Catholic followers against the state.